

Baraboo Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2019

I. Call to Meeting to Order and Note Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Chair Jim Bowers called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Baraboo Municipal Building, 101 South Blvd, Room 205, Baraboo, WI. The meeting was noticed in conformance with Wisconsin State Statutes regarding open meetings.

II. Roll Call

Present: Bowers, Umhoefer (5:37), Alt, Ayar (5:40), Bingle, Palm, Platt-Gibson, Reppen, Taylor, Wastlund, White

Absent: Caflisch, White

Other: Ed Geick, Patrick Cannon

III. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

Taylor (1); Alt (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

IV. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for March 7, 2019.

Taylor (1); Johnson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

V. Public Comment

a. Presentation by Ms. Laura Walczak, President, St. Clare Hospital

Ms. Walczak provided the Board with an overview of the rich history of St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo and the overall philosophy of SSM Health Care. She indicated that "health care is an extension of humanity" and that Baraboo has done an outstanding job in this area.

Ms. Umhoefer enters at 5:37

Ms. Walczak also gave an update on how St. Clare has responded to the overall health care needs of the area. She discussed the additional health services now being offered in the area and the new Physicians that have begun their practice in Baraboo. She discussed how they have created a strong working environment with their staff, patients and the community to strengthen the health care in the area.

Mr. Bowers asked how she felt the community welcomed her when she moved to Baraboo. She described the experience as a very welcoming community. People were very helpful to her and her family and she felt very comfortable.

VI. Old Business

a. Updates on Development Activities

Ed Geick provided an update on various activities

- The 2020 Census preparation has begun
- DEZ Arms is looking at a ground breaking and plans to be open in the fall of 2019
- The Discover Wisconsin Show will have its official airing on April 20, 2019. A preview will be held on April 8, 2019 at the Al. Ringling Theater
- A Diversity Committee is being formed as there are still several issues throughout the area.

- The High School senior class went to Skokie, IL to visit the Holocaust Museum.
- There is also a new story on Buzfeed regarding the photo incident from last fall.

b. Updates from Plan Commission and Council

Mayor Palm spoke on the following items:

- The Planning Commission did not meet last month.
- The City did a re-zoning approval for 52 acres from Agriculture to Planned Industrial Business
- The City has been finishing the CLOSE program application
- Al. Ringling Brewing has submitted a grant application for funding.
- The Devil's Lake Interpretive Center had approximately 65 people attend their meeting

c. Update from economic development partners and collaborators

- Dr. Ayar indicated the University has been looking at 2 new programs through UW Platteville
- Ms. Platt-Gibson indicated that the cancer center has had patients from 82 different zip codes. The Hospital is looking at rural mental health issues in cooperation with the City of Reedsburg.
- Mr. Taylor indicated that the delinquency rate at the Bank is extremely low.
- Mr. Johnson indicated that the milk market is improving
- Ms. Umhoefer indicated that the Luther College Cathedral Choir will be at the AL. Ringling Theater as part of a fund raiser
- Mr. Bingle indicated that the renovations at the ICF are going well. All the trails are open at Mirror Lake and Devil's Lake State Parks. He is also resigning from the Board as he is relocating out of the area to pursue his Graduate Degree
- Mr. Reppen indicated that Servo is doing well
- Ms. Wastlund indicated that the CDA is working on its Strategic Plan
- Mayor Palm indicated that they are filming across the state on the issue of pothole and he has been asked to be part of the production
- Mr. Bowers indicated that the Village of West Baraboo Plan Commission is taking comments on a proposed homeless shelter in the village.

d. Consideration of development of a strategic plan for BEDC

i. Ad Hoc Committee on Eastside Corridor Study

Mr. Alt indicated that no comments have been received as a result of the Eastside Plan being distributed to the area residents.

ii. Ad Hoc Committee on Business Walk

No updates on the prior Business Walk

VII. New Business

a. Discussion of Business Walk for 2020.

Staff indicated that if BEDC would like to schedule a second Business Walk for 2020 that we should indicate that soon. Staff will begin to coordinate the process.

VIII. Update Partner Presentation Schedule

Speakers will be scheduled for every other month. The next speaker will be the Sauk County Sheriff. Other speakers will be regarding agriculture and water resources

IX. Commissioner and City Staff comments

Ms. Wastlund asked on how resident are being informed regarding BEDC activities.

Mr. Bowers indicated that the High School has its own Food Pantry.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:10 pm.

Bingle (1); Wastlund (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

Jim Bowers

Chairperson

Patrick Cannon

Recorder